

The Status and Involvement of University Emeritus Presidents in the Life of the University

Today the University of Michigan is fortunate to have on its campus several emeritus presidents and first ladies of the University who continue to play important roles in the life of the institution. The University benefits greatly from the continued service and involvement of these individuals. In this spirit it seems appropriate to develop a more formal statement concerning the status and involvement of emeritus presidents.

In earlier times, it was common for the presidents of the University to serve until retirement age. However, as the University became larger and more complex, the age of presidents dropped while their term of service became shorter. As a result, it will be increasingly common for presidents of the University to return to active roles on the faculty when they end their administrative assignment rather than retiring from the University.

Therefore it seems important to give special consideration to the role and involvement of emeritus presidents in the life of the University. The service that they and their families have provided to the University; their unusual experience, perspective, and wisdom; and the role they can play in sustaining the history and traditions of the University, all merit special consideration. This document is intended to set out guidelines for this purpose.

Official Status

University Title: President Emeritus

Faculty Title: University Professor of

Active Support

The Office of the President will assume responsibility for providing support for emeritus presidents for University-related activities (e.g., clerical support for handling papers, travel support for University functions), information technology support, and other routine services (e.g., key-card parking). It will also assume the responsibility for making certain that emeritus presidents are involved in the life of the University.

In addition, emeritus presidents will be allowed to use Inglis House with the University supporting the costs of University-related functions that they host.

10/9/91

Ceremonial Roles

Emeritus Presidents will be invited to all ceremonial university events such as:

University Commencement
Honors Convocation
Special Development Functions

They will be invited to represent the University at ceremonial events at other universities such as inaugurations and serve as the President's delegates to ceremonial events at the state, national, and international level.

Historical Role

All emeritus presidents and first ladies / gentlemen will be invited to provide oral histories for the University archives.

The University will provide any necessary support for written histories or other University-related writings (e.g., subventions, use of University Press).

The University will also provide support for the collection and preservation of historical materials such as documents, photographs, and other significant memorabilia.

They will be invited to serve on or as consultants to the History and Traditions Committee

Other University Roles

Emeritus presidents will be invited from time to time to serve on or be consultants to committees where their experience or expertise would be of helpful, e.g., evaluation, planning, and advisory task forces, the Honorary Degree Committee, the Board in Control of Intercollegiate athletics, the UM Alumni Association Board.

They will be encouraged to become actively involved in University development activities, ranging from providing advise to key planning committees to participation in key development events or special University events such as bowl trips.

University Events

It is important that emeritus presidents be encouraged to be active participants in events of the University. This will include, but not be limited, to:

Athletic Events:

- i) Standing invitations as guests in the President's Box at home football games. In addition emeritus presidents will receive an allocation of two tickets for personal use.
- ii) Two complementary tickets (and the opportunity to purchase additional tickets) at other athletic events of their choice, including basketball and hockey.
- iii) Complimentary passes to other athletic events, as desired.
- iv) Complimentary use of the University golf courses.

Cultural Events

- i) Priority seating to any desired University Musical Society events.
- ii) Complimentary tickets to School of Music productions.

General Role

Emeritus presidents and first ladies of the University represent an exceptionally valuable resource both to the institution and its traditions. It is important to provide them with every opportunity to stay actively involved in the life of the University.